

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 385  
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Phipps "J. P."  
Stewart of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Phipps "J. P." Stewart; and

WHEREAS, J. P. Stewart was an exemplary public servant and consummate educator who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was an extremely talented and compassionate administrator who motivated his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was a courageous Tennessean who served with distinction in World War II as one of those noble Americans who earned the rightful designation of the "greatest generation"; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Carson-Newman College and the University of Tennessee, Mr. Stewart had served with acumen and alacrity as the Superintendent of Schools for the City of Maryville, in which position he earned the respect of his faculty, students, and the public alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, a visionary academic leader, J. P. Stewart was Superintendent of the Maryville School System for twenty-three years; he had also served as a teacher and principal in the Maryville School System; and

WHEREAS, constantly seeking to improve Maryville High School, J. P. Stewart sought and secured Title III money to start an innovative project that allowed students to create and broadcast their own programs on the school's television system; and

WHEREAS, J. P. Stewart's firm belief in discipline earned him the distinction of paddling a future Tennessee Governor and later United States Senator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lamar Alexander admits, “J. P. Stewart paddled me in the ninth grade even though my dad was on the school board. I deserved it and behaved a lot better after that.”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Alexander also said, “J. P. Stewart is one of the main reasons Maryville’s schools are among the country’s best. He was a great friend of mine and our family, and we will miss him greatly.”; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to providing an excellent education for all children, the Maryville City Schools Foundation honored J. P. Stewart with the distinguished service award in 2003; and

WHEREAS, J. P. Stewart was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was preceded in death by his loving wife, Maude; his parents Plato E. and Mary Alice Phipps Stewart; and three brothers and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, J. P. Stewart is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Terry Stewart; his granddaughter, Catherine Stewart; sister, Edith Beard; sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Reverend Calvin Bailey; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, with over forty years of perfect attendance, Mr. Stewart was a dedicated member of the Maryville Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, an avid golfer, J. P. Stewart was a member of Green Meadow Country Club and played with the East Tennessee Senior Golf Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was an active and devout member of the Maryville First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a Sunday School teacher and Head Usher; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, J. P. Stewart truly epitomized the ideal of the dedicated teacher and able administrator; and

WHEREAS, J. P. Stewart leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Phipps "J. P." Stewart, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as an educator and public servant and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Stewart.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.